

TBL holds celebration midway for RTO folks



1



2



3

1 & 2, People from around the agency who worked on RTO attended the lunch.

3, TBL Senior Vice President Mark Maher "reflected" on the success of BPA's work on RTO West this year. BPA folks helped put RTO West out front in the nation.

The Northwest made great strides in setting up RTO West this year. The new regional transmission organization will one day handle most of the electric energy movement in the Northwest. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has ordered regions to create independent grid system operations as part of FERC's deregulation of the electric industry in recent years.

The progress made on RTO West so far was due mostly to BPA employees. More than 200 folks have been working much of this year on the RTO. More work remains to be done before the RTO is fully set up and ready to function.

But management thought it was time to recognize the people across BPA who have been working on the effort. That includes several folks from outside the Transmission Business Line, as well as dozens of TBL employees.

So TBL held a midway thank-you luncheon in early October. Executives attended the lunch and gave employees a pat on the back. Administrator Judi Johansen and TBL Senior Vice President Mark Maher praised the BPA folks for putting RTO West ahead of the rest of the country. Others who attended to say thanks were Power Business Line Senior Vice President Paul Norman, Transmission Marketing Vice President Chuck Meyer and RTO project manager Peggy Olds.

TBL had planned to hold the lunch outdoors at the Dittmer picnic area but a type of energy "crisis" forced a change in plans. The tables and food were set up when strong winds chased – or blew – the gathering inside.

Typical of the teamwork that has marked the work on the RTO so far, people pitched in to move the celebration. Executives and employees grabbed tables and supplies and marched everything over to the DOB-1 auditorium.



8



7



6

6, 7 & 8, Executives and employees hustled to haul food, tables and supplies out of the wind and indoors for the RTO midway celebration.



4

4 & 5, Transmission Business Line head Mark Maher gets the first piece of cake from Melanie Jackson. The cake has the many RTO utility players flagged. At the top, the message reads, "Thank You. We're making history together." The piece of cake on the front page of the *Circuit* has the words from two lines of the icing that spelled "We're history."



5

Photos by Jack Odgaard

Two BPA teams squared off for the second year in a row to decide the Energy Bozo Softball Tournament championship this summer. Portland's team, coached by Joe Bebee, defeated Frank Brown's Bozos from Seattle. The Portlanders overcame a 7-0 deficit to win the game, 14-11, and the tourney championship.

Last year, the Ross Bozos defeated BPA's Seattle team for the tourney title at Ocean Shores, Wash. This year's tourney was held at Leavenworth, Wash. The Portland win means that each of the four teams BPA fields has now won the Bozo tourney at least once. The fourth team comes from Spokane.

This year's weather was hot and dry, compared to heavy rain on the coast last year. But other events associated with the tourney weekend added to the fun and enjoyment. Between games the energy Bozos took a rafting trip on the Wenatchee

Portland out-Bozo's Seattle for energy group's trophy

River, had a catered dinner with live music, and enjoyed the scenery and camaraderie.

The host for this year's tournament was the team formerly known as the Washington State Energy Office. Next year's host will be Puget Power. This was the 16th year the event has been held between teams in the Northwest sponsored by utilities or energy agencies.

— by Joe Bebee of transmission lines engineering



Portland's winning Bozo softball team included, left to right, (Front): Meri Foeller, Joe Bebee, Marci Martinez, Art Martinez and Julie Anderson; (Back) Tom Foeller, Syd Berwagaer, Elvis Clark, Lori Clark, Anne Self, Christina Novak, Rob Anderson and Bryon Strickland.

Members of the Seattle Bozo's who finished runner-up were Frank Brown and wife Lauri, Don Bollinger, Tom Irvine, Marylou and husband Ernest Macias; and retirees, relatives and friends Julie Balss, Jennifer and Paul Williamson, Toby Garcia, Bill Andrus, Don Fay and Dan Rottler.